

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,

Ratified by the people April 21st, 22d and 23d, 1868.

PREAMBLE.

We, the people of the State of North Carolina, grateful Preamble.
to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations, for the
preservation of the American Union, and the existence of
our civil, political and religious liberties, and acknowledging
our dependence upon Him, for the continuance of those
blessings to us and our posterity, do, for the more certain
security thereof, and for the better government of this State,
ordain and establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE I.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

That the great, general and essential principles of liberty
and free government, may be recognized and established,
and that the relations of this State to the Union and gov-
ernment of the United States, and those of the people of this
State to the rest of the American people, may be defined
and affirmed, we do declare :

SECTION 1. That we hold it to be self-evident that all men The equality and
rights of men.
are created equal ; that they are endowed by their Creator